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PHILADELPHIA NO. 1 FREE DAILY

Weekend, July 20-23, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: Met

LET THE LOBSTERS ROLL

Luke's Lobster opens at Market East this Friday. 25

Judd Apatow on returning to stand-up. 17

No pressure, but it's all on Embiid. 28

CAMERA COMPROMISE

A new law concerning police body cameras has drawn a mixed reaction, with some opponents saying the law will do nothing toward ending police brutality. 6

GETTY IMAGES

TRUMP PRESSES VOTER FRAUD CONCERNS

1 President Donald Trump pressed his unproven claims of voter fraud at the first meeting of a commission he created to study the issue, and implied states that did not share voter data with the panel had something to hide. The panel has faced lacerating criticism from Democrats and voting rights groups that argued it could be a vehicle for changes that would make it harder for lawful voters

to cast ballots — and by a number of state governments reluctant to hand over information about their voters to the White House. Despite evidence from state officials from both parties that voter fraud is rare in U.S. elections, Trump has claimed that millions of illegal immigrants voted in the November 2016 election.

NUMBER OF TERRORIST ATTACKS DROPPED IN 2016

2 The number of terrorist attacks worldwide and deaths from such attacks dropped in 2016 for the second straight year, driven by decreases in Afghanistan, Syria, Nigeria, Pakistan and Yemen, the U.S. State Department said on Wednesday. The total number of terrorist attacks in 2016 dropped 9 percent compared to 2015, while fatalities caused by the attacks fell 13 percent, the department said in a report on global terrorism. The Sunni militant group Islamic State was the deadliest terrorist group last year, carrying out 20 percent more attacks in Iraq and causing 69 percent more deaths there compared to 2015. Data compiled by the University of Maryland for the State Department showed there were a total of 11,072 terrorist attacks worldwide last year, resulting in more than 25,600 deaths.

DONALD TRUMP JR, PAUL MANAFORT TO TESTIFY

3 President Donald Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., and former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort will testify on July 26 before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, the panel said in a statement. Trump Jr. and Manafort are expected to be questioned about allegations Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and possible collusion with the Trump campaign.

BACKSTROKE

4 Myles Bailey of Australia competes in the boy's 100m Backstroke Heat 3 on day 2 of the 2017 Youth Commonwealth Games at Betty Kelly Kenning Aquatics Centre on Wednesday in Nassau, Bahamas. GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

FACEBOOK IN TALKS WITH PUBLISHERS

5 Facebook is in early talks with several news publishers about how its social media site can better support subscription business models, the company's head of news partnerships, Campbell Brown, said in a statement. The statement comes a day after TheStreet reported that Facebook plans to launch a subscription-based news product, citing comments by Brown at a conference. Facebook will begin initial tests in October, TheStreet reported. The feature is likely to allow publishers to create a paywall on Facebook's Instant Articles and guide readers to a publisher's home page to opt for a digital subscription, according to TheStreet. Instant Articles lets publishers post articles directly to the Facebook app. The idea for a paywall is based on premium and metered plans and has been in the works for a while, TheStreet said, citing Brown at the Digital Publishing Innovation Summit.

WELCOME TO METRO.US!

LENYON WHITAKER, MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

WOW Air is known for its extremely low prices for air travel — but the founder wants to make flying even better for travelers. He sees a day in which customers will be paid by the airline to fly with them. Find out how he plans to make that happen at **metro.us/lifestyle.**

PLAY TO WIN $100!

Every Monday, we pick a random winner from the participants who answered correctly one of the quizzes from the previous week.

metro.us/quiz

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Elephant tranquilizer carfentanil caused Chesco man's overdose

A local drug dealer has been charged with selling elephant tranquilizer-laced heroin that caused a man's death.

HAYDEN MITMAN
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A Phoenixville man has been arrested on charges of selling carfentanil — which the Chester County coroner described as being "10,000 times more powerful than heroin and 100 times more powerful than fentanyl" — to a 34-year-old male who died of an overdose, officials announced Wednesday.

According to law enforcement officials, Damon Alfred Eskridge, 20, of Railroad Street in Phoenixville, has been charged with a drug delivery that resulted in the death of a man — whom police did not identify — due to a drug overdose in a home on the 300 block of Second Avenue in Phoenixville on July 4.

On July 5, Eskridge was charged with possession with the intent to deliver drugs, and related charges. He posted bail and was released, police said.

Following an autopsy of the deceased by the Chester County Coroner's Office, coroner Dr. Gordon Eck found the presence of carfentanil in the blood of the overdose victim and, on July 17, Eck declared that the man's death was caused by "acute carfentanil toxicity."

Eskridge was rearrested on July 18, and based on the toxicology results, he has been charged with drug delivery that resulted in death.

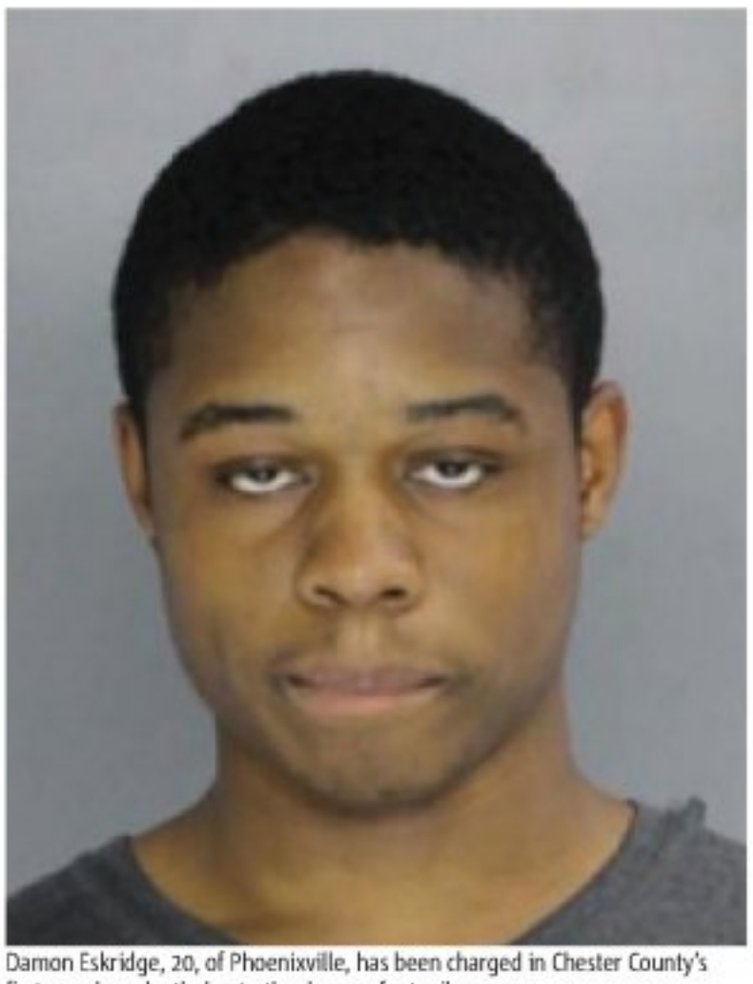
"We are working together every day to keep this poison out of our homes, schools and businesses."
District Attorney Tom Hoganin

This is the first reported appearance of carfentanil in Chester County, prosecutors said, noting that the drug is "commonly used as a tranquilizing agent for elephants, horses, and other large animals" and is "known on the street as 'gray death.'"

It is so powerful that a dog can die from accidentally smelling the drug, and most vets and zoos only keep 20 grams at a time. Just 2 milligrams can be fatal to a human.

Law enforcement officials said that carfentanil can be lethal to humans in amounts less than 1 milligram.

"Think of a couple of grains of salt. That is the amount of carfentanil that can kill a drug user looking for a new high, or a police officer unlucky enough to accidentally ingest the drug" said Chester Co. District Attorney Tom Hoganin a statement. "In Chester County, we are working together every day to keep this poison out of our homes, schools and businesses."


Damon Eskridge, 20, of Phoenixville, has been charged in Chester County's first overdose death due to the drug carfentanil. PROVIDED

According to police, Eskridge was arrested after undercover police set up a drug buy, looking for heroin, from him by using the cell phone of the overdose victim.

Law enforcement officials said that when Eskridge was arrested after he came to the meeting place, he was found with bundles of suspected heroin in baggies in his possession that were stamped with the name "New Arrival." Bags similarly stamped with this name were also found among the paraphernalia found on the deceased, police said.

According to the Chester County District Attorney's Office, Eskridge could face up to 20 to 40 years in prison if convicted.

Murder suspect fires at police from Germantown rooftop then takes his own life after standoff

A 25-year-old woman was killed, and her suspected killer barricaded himself in a Germantown home on Tuesday before taking his own life.

According to police, an unidentified male — police on Wednesday said they had to notify the man's family before his identity would be released — is believed to have shot and killed 25-year-old Michelle Saint-Aude, before barricading himself in a nearby home and firing his weapon at police officers attempting to arrest him.

Law enforcement officials said the incident unfolded on Tuesday, after about 1:13 p.m., when police responded to reports of a homicide on the 1200 block of E. Sanger Street in Frankford, where witnesses told police that a man fired four shots at Saint-Aude and, when she fell to the ground, he stood over her and fired an additional shot into the dying woman's body.

The man, police said, then fled southbound in an alley between Sylvester and Oakland streets.

First responders transported Saint-Aude to Albert Einstein Medical Center, where police said she was pronounced dead at 1:53 p.m. According to authorities, officers investigating her shooting then found the suspected shooter barricaded in a home along the 1300 block of East Haines Street.

A standoff ensued around 6:30 p.m. Police said the suspected killer fired several shots at police as he moved across Haines Street rooftops. At about 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday, officers heard a muffled gunshot and raided the home, concerned that there might be another victim inside, according to CBS.

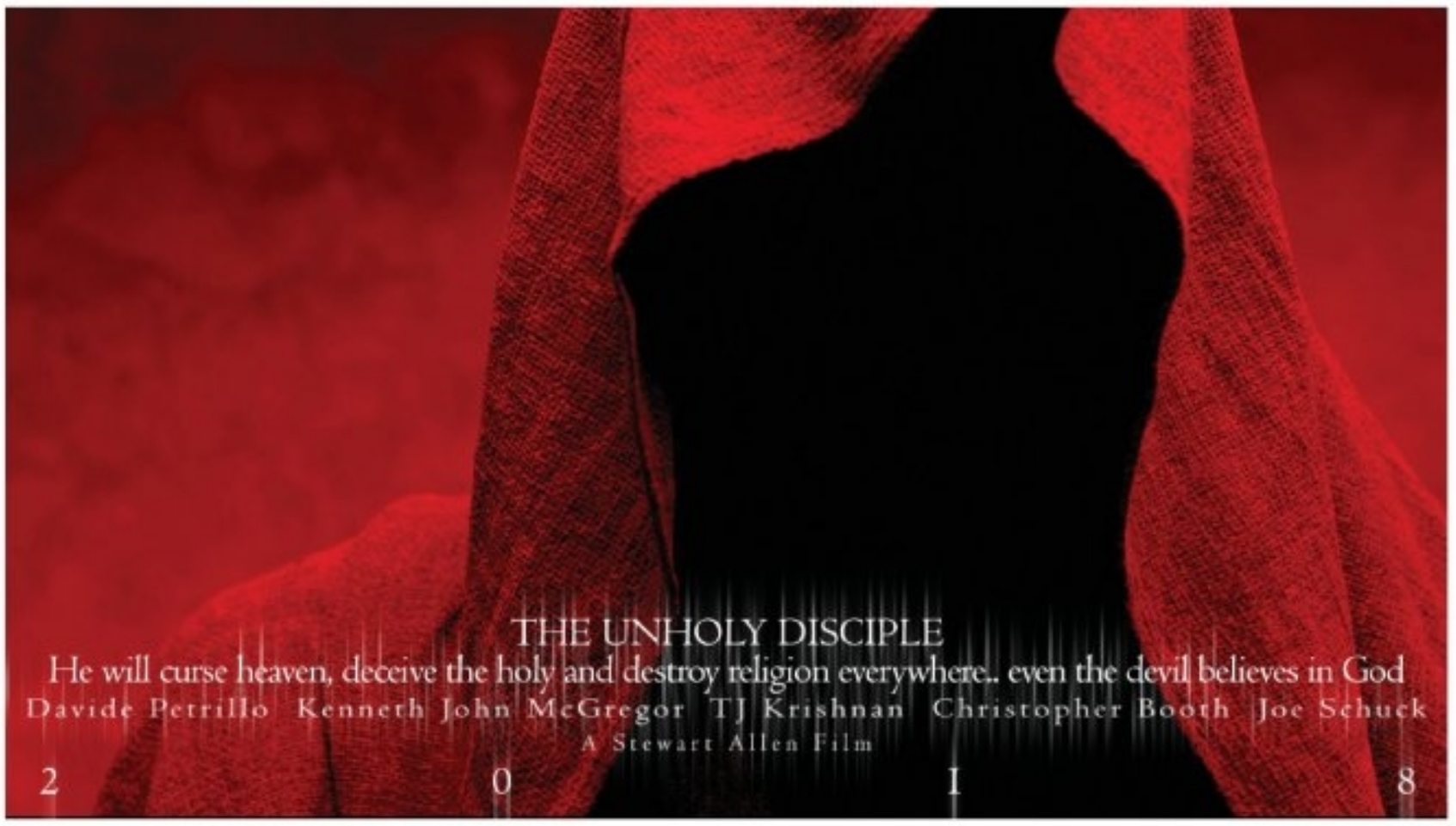
A suspected murderer killed himself after barricading himself in a home along the 1300 block of E. Haines Street in Frankford on Tuesday. GOOGLE MAPS

Instead, officers found the unidentified suspect dead, according to police, of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Law enforcement officials said that the incident remains under investigation.

HAYDEN MITMAN

The Unholy Disciple


THE UNHOLY DISCIPLE
He will curse heaven, deceive the holy and destroy religion everywhere.. even the devil believes in God
Davide Petrillo Kenneth John McGregor TJ Krishnan Christopher Booth Joe Schuck
A Stewart Allen Film
2 0 1 8

PHILADELPHIA — *The Unholy Disciple*, a religious thriller is to begin filming across Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore and Washington D.C. Critics label it a surprise Avant-Garde that thrusts the laws of angelical cause and effect into a sphere of three-dimensional horror. The story begins with an unspeakable act of murderous onslaught then progresses into something much, much worse. It's being compared to thrillers like *The Omen*, *Devil's Advocate* and *The Exorcist*. It presents a score of psychopathic and terrifying scenarios that give rise to an evil slew of diabolical cults in an attempt to possess world conscience.

The Unholy begins with a brilliant screenplay written at an almost docudrama level. It exposes the geniuses who without notice keep the world safe. Movie goers will experience an unexpected bone chiller. The story is a dark, cold test of human faith in a world of godless acts. It focuses on one of the greatest religious crusades in modern times. The storyline reinforces the power of good's universal harmony in a desperate attempt to thwart demonic reasoning from completely erasing the presence of God from the planet. It is a marvel of movie making and not for the weak hearted.

The production includes a group of actors with a rare and diverse backgrounds. Davide Petrillo, a brilliant actor who spends most of his days filming on the streets of Manhattan, New York, has recently signed on. Some of Davide's, past performances include *Mystery at the Museum*, *Paulie & Jake*, and *Journey of Three Women* and a number of other film and TV projects. He's shared film sets with some of the best including one with Hollywood director Spike Lee. Davide, accepted a major role in this horrific screenplay stating "it's a conjure of irreverent psychology set to take place in an already deviant environment. The story defines real evil created in a real world. The movie's a God sent warning to the four corners.."

Kenneth John McGregor, a seasoned Hollywood actor respected worldwide, has amassed a career most could only dream of. He's appeared in more than 100 movie and TV projects, McGregor's movies have included notable names like Tom Cruise, Denzel Washington, Forest Whitaker, Bill Mosley and Harvey Keitel. Kenneth's acceptance into *The Disciple*, is based on "the films unusual set of production challenges, nightmarish frights and a screenplay that drives the imagination to a surreal sense of anticipation." He has appeared in other films of this genre. *X-Men*, *Exorcist: The Real Story, the Church*, and *Prom Night IV*.

TJ Krishnan, a highly sought after talent, has performed in such projects as *Lottoland U.K* and an independent short *MATIS*. He has worked with the great Shaun Harrison, an instrumental crew member in the Harry Potter movies. TJ, also worked with award winning film director Suman Gosh, who has won best film at the Washington D.C. south Asian film festival for the movie *KADAMBARI*. Krishnan, who just completed a recent NFL commercial has casted a role in *the Unholy*. He believes "it has a unique untested sense of thriller/suspense that's never been put to the big screen" TJ commented that "religion has spawned avast range of different practices, each having a positive impact on the rest of the world. I struggle to be a part of that progress so that religions everywhere can continue."

Christopher Booth, is an accomplished stage performer. Booth is intelligent, charismatic and a very respected professional. Chris, understands from experience what it means to get it right and on point. He's accepted a dynamic role in the film. He describes the film as "an anomaly of religious insights, diabolical twists, and anarchic visions." The talented actor has played in a number of controversial roles that include *John Mohammad's*, the D.C. Sniper, and in *Lee Daniels, the Shadowboxer*. Cast members add that "Christopher, brings to an already insidious screenplay an indifferent mindset that seizes a nefarious anti-vision and orchestrates it across a sea of psychological abyss."

"What we're about to achieve should be taken serious and remembered. The movie is an emotional collide of inner beliefs," remarked actor Joe Schuck. He plays an ingenious character and understands the possible negatives when performing in films of this nature. "*The Omen* and *The Exorcist*, have influenced millions. Stories that unveil horrific themes, truth be told or not is dangerous. Hollywood, Philadelphia or New York, it makes no difference to the human psyche." On the set of *The Omen*, production members wore crosses. There also were a number of real and questionable deaths that surrounded its filming. In *the Exorcist*, I heard real priests were brought on the set as perhaps unspoken precautions. To be honest the pressures of acting, the stakes of success and the public's charm of movie making expectations can sometime spiral out of control."

Director and screenwriter Stewart Allen, "I've listened to religious clergy from all backgrounds express their concern on the film's possible impact. A year or so ago I had a fifteen-minute conversation with Hollywood star Jim Caviezel, who starred in *the Passion of the Christ*. Our discussion never touched on *The Passion*'s seven hundred-million-dollar box office. It centered on the power of evil, how deadly and wide spread its effects have become. *The Unholy Disciple*, poses a simple question, 'have you ever contemplated the equation of your existence realizing that only God, the devil or karma stand in the balance. Point being is that creation never dies it only rearranges, from Christ to Einstein they knew it all too well.'"

The Unholy Disciple, has a high probability of becoming a box office success. It's no surprise that when you rise to this level you've attracted interest from Greenwich Village to Beverly Hills. not to mention the Philadelphia film office who's connections also stretch across the globe. We may once again get a chance at film making history. A history that follows such greats as *Fallen*, *The Six Sense*, *Transformers 2* and *Rocky*. For more information, The Unholy Disciple.com website will be up and operating late July 2017. Movie goers can anticipate it's release early 2018.

Written by Express Writers (https://expresswriters.com/)

A Philly police officer models a body camera. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Mixed reactions to PA's new police body camera law

Gov. Wolf struck a compromise on police body cameras that is attracting both praise and criticism.

MADELINE PRESLAND
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Legislation that seems like a victory in the fight to end police brutality may act as more of a roadblock, critics say.

Gov. Tom Wolf signed Senate Bill 560 earlier this month, which says footage collected from police body cameras is exempt from the Right to Know Law and which clarifies privacy issues around the cameras. On the same day, Gov. Wolf's office announced that the Pennsylvania State Police would receive a $52,000 grant to start a body camera pilot program with 30 cameras.

On the surface, the bill seems like a victory for those in Philadelphia advocating for the body cameras as a measure to gather evidence in police brutality cases. Supporters say the new rules will provide other police departments a framework to follow in setting up their own body camera programs. But the law also has critics who deem it not enough for the cause of police transparency. It also exempts police officers from having to ask permission to record audio and video.

State Sen. Sharif Street, who supports the bill, called its passage a "victory."

Street acknowledged that the law is "an evolving and imperfect thing," but said the bill is a move in the right direction.

"Let's make no mistake, this was a victory for progressives," Sen. Street said, noting the bill allows policy body cameras to always be recording, instead of being something officers can turn on or off. "This is something that good cops and regular people, especially in communities of color, have asked for."

The American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania doesn't call the bill a victory. The organization staunchly opposed the bill, and Legislative Director Elizabeth Randol fears this bill might not have the impact needed to crack down on police brutality.

"We will be surprised if footage is released, especially if it's of a contentious incident such as a shooting or use of force," said Randol. "This bill completely inverts the purpose of the body cameras. It has relegated them to a sole use of evidence and data collection, or even surveillance."

Randol and Black Lives Matter Philly member Candace McKinley share the same fear that these body cameras will serve more of a purpose as surveillance tools, rather than as digital watchdogs.

"Body cameras are useless unless the footage is available for public scrutiny," said McKinley. "People don't think about the drawback of body camera footage. It can turn into a tool to build records against people. And the police departments are given way too much latitude for police departments to decide whether they are going to release footage."

> *"Body cameras are useless unless the footage is available for public scrutiny."*
>
> Candace McKinley

The legislation outlines a complicated application process for those who wish to request copies of the footage. Applicants must provide detailed information such as who is in that particular video and where it was taken along with their own information. If applicants are denied, they can opt to go through an appeals process. This includes a $125 fine for the case to be heard. Critics point out the various barriers to obtaining footage, saying that the application process is a burden placed on the public.

"[Body cameras] are powerful instruments," Randol said. "If we don't have any access to this footage, we can't hold them accountable."

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WOW Air planning for time when passengers are paid to fly airlines

The carrier continues its quest to have the lowest ticket prices for customers.

LENYON WHITAKER
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WOW Air has a unique take on ticket pricing. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

There could be a day when an airline will pay you to fly with them, according to the CEO of WOW Air.

Skúli Mogensen, founder and CEO of low-cost carrier WOW Air, says he sees a day when customers will be paid by the airline to fly with them.

"I can see a day when we pay you to fly," Mogensen said to Business Insider.

The airline is already known for its extremely low prices for air travel. In January, WOW Air had a sale for $69 one-way tickets from the US to Europe. In June, the carrier featured tickets for as low as $55 for trans-Atlantic flights. The extremely low prices were part of a strategy to bring awareness to the rapidly growing carrier.

Airlines have found ways to lower ticket costs and increase revenue by setting fees for passengers wanting to select certain seats, in-flight meals and early boarding. They have also developed partnerships with hotels, car rental companies, restaurants and other travel-related services to come up with methods to raise revenue in more ways than from ticket sales alone.

That is the strategy Mogensen hopes to capitalize on. He plans to make ticket prices cheaper, but to have passengers pay for travel options such as more legroom.

"Our goal, and we're working hard toward it, is for our ancillary revenue to actually surpass our passenger revenue," Mogensen said. "Whatever airline becomes the first to achieve this will be a game changer," he added.

Mogensen also has plans to use social media and technology to find innovative ways for customers to earn rewards for flying with WOW Air. According to Business Insider, the company plans to pay customers for their social media posts that promote the airline.

"People tend to take a lot of photos while traveling, sharing their experiences. We see a lot of interesting ways to empower people to spread the word about WOW and to reward them accordingly," Mogensen said.

Many airlines already have special reward programs and a-la-carte services for their customers, but what becomes interesting is seeing what the future holds for carriers competing to provide the lowest airfares for customers while making the largest profit.

PHILLY ROACHES

Philadelphia street horrified as cockroaches invade

A recent roach infestation covered an entire city street. METRO FILE

Residents of a Philadelphia street were horrified when thousands of cockroaches emerged from a sewer drain, forming a swarm so big that it covered the street at one stage, according to city officials and local media on Tuesday.

"There were thousands of them," resident Pat Wall told NBC10 television of the Sunday-night incident. "It was a horror story that I couldn't believe I was living."

A small task force of city workers on Tuesday found the source of the infestation, a drain clogged with refuse, said John DiGiulio, a spokesman for the Philadelphia Water Department. That may have contributed to the swarming in the city's riverfront Bridesburg neighborhood, he said.

Roaches are a fact of life all over the city, and the creatures thrive in warm, moist environments, DiGiulio said.

"It's unfortunate but they do live in those type of environments," he said. "It could have been a disturbance or anything to make them come out."

Sewers are normally cleaned out every few months by the water department and more frequently when a complaint is received, according to DiGiulio.

Health department workers will also bait the sewer line in an effort to fight the bugs.

REUTERS

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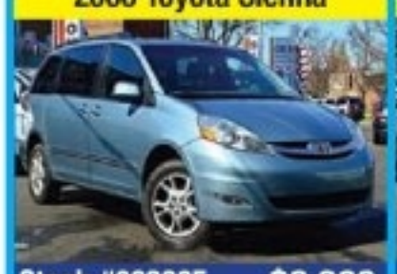

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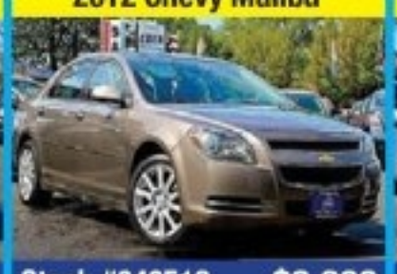

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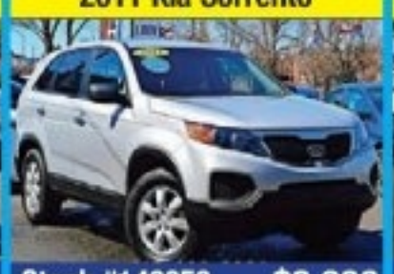
2011 Kia Sorrento



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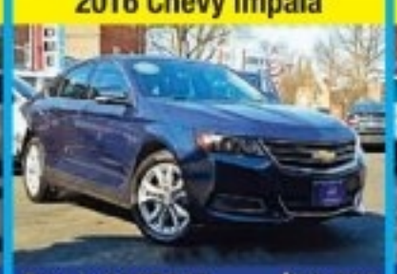

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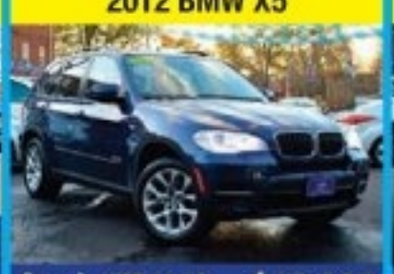

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Pop idol Taylor Swift's Italian great-grandfather C.C.A. Baldi's Philly home in Manayunk just got a historic designation. GETTY IMAGES/PROVIDED

Taylor Swift's great-grandpa's Philly home gets recognition

Home of Italian businessman who helped shape Philly gets historic designation.

A.D. AMOROSI
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In his time, Charles Carmine Antonio Baldi — C.C.A. Baldi — was a first-generation Italian immigrant entrepreneur and community leader of great renown.

Arriving in Philadelphia from Cilento di Castelnuovo, Salerno, in 1876, C.C.A. (who later brought three brothers and one sister — Ferdinando, Virgilio, Alfonso and Grazia — to South Philly) founded his own coal yard (with its own mine in Schuykill County), opened an insurance and real estate business, organized a savings-and-loan bank, operated Philly's only Italian daily newspaper, L'Opinone, and, most crucially, started the C.C.A. Baldi Funeral Home on South Eighth Street — all by the turn of the century.

That C.C.A. is also Reading, Pennsylvania-born pop star Taylor Swift's great-great-grandfather on her father's side is just the frothy icing on a very traditional Italian rum cake — one that just got its cherry on top with Friday's addition of his Green Street home in Manayunk to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

"C.C.A. was among the first Italian funeral directors in this city, and the reason why I do what I do today," said Victor Baldi — who, along with Peter Jacovini — owns Broad Street's Pennsylvania Burial Company/Baldi Funeral Home. If you really want to complicate matters, Victor Baldi's great-great uncle Pietro not only married C.C.A.'s sister Grazia, he was the editor of C.C.A.'s L'Opinone and had his first funeral parlor in the Italian Market where Claudio's Cheese currently resides. "My dad was C.C.A.'s brother, and the 8th and Kimball area where they had their bank, the newspaper and the funeral home, which was an old tannery with stables and horses — they built that area up," said Victor Baldi.

When the Baldis merged with the Jacovinis in an arranged marriage, they also got another celebrity connection, to Norristown-born actress Maria Bello, who is related to the Jacovinis. "Funny, right," said Victor Baldi of his connection to Swift and Bello. "I don't know either of them personally, though I do tease people how my cousin is a national singing treasure."

The only fame that matters here, however, is that of C.C.A. Baldi, as Swift had zip to do with the initial nomination or the addition of the local funeral icon's 319 Green St. home (built in 1891, currently a multi-unit property) to the Historic Registry. "I had no idea Swift had any connection to Charles Baldi until Vic Baldi told me, so she was never part of the picture," said Philadelphia historian/author Celeste Morello, who nominated the Green Street house to the register in March.

> *"My nomination stated that if you are going to write about the history of Italians in Philadelphia and what they stood for, you have to write about Baldi."*
>
> Celeste Morello

"C.C.A. Baldi was a great man in his day and continues to be an inspiration, so my focus was on him, his three sons and his accomplishments," said Morello. "My nomination stated that if you are going to write about the history of Italians in Philadelphia and what they stood for, you have to write about Baldi."

Among what the nomination defined as "Italian causes" were aiding in establishing Columbus Day as a national holiday, owning a significant number of local properties and helping to raise money for the candidacies of Presdients William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft. According to the nomination, Baldi was also responsible for reducing literacy requirements for naturalization, all of which combined for the C.C.A. Baldi Middle School to be named for him.

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Donald Jr. is 'miserable,' just wants president's term to be over: Report

"He never wanted this," a friend told People magazine.

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letters@metro.us

Speaking increasingly as a man of the people, Donald Trump Jr. is "miserable" and can't wait for his father's presidency to end, reports People magazine.

"Don can't do any deals, because he'll be overly scrutinized. He just goes to work every day and is miserable," a source close to the Trumps' circle told the magazine.

A friend of the Trump brothers said they hate their role as first sons: "Eric and Don, they never wanted this."

It's been a week since Trump Jr. released an email chain revealing he met with a Russian lawyer who proffered damaging information about Hillary Clinton, the first concrete evidence that the Trump campaign may have colluded with the Russians to swing the 2016 election.

Since then, the president has defended his son as "a good boy."

Trump Jr. originally said the meeting was about adoption before releasing the email chain that proved otherwise right before The New York Times published it. He said in an interview on Fox News that he "probably would have done things a little differently" and that the revelations in the email were "everything." It's since been revealed that several more people were in the meeting than Trump Jr. had disclosed.

A family friend told People the loyalty within their family is "insane."

"They would never speak against their dad," the friend said.

But the magazine notes that sibling tension may be afoot. The president "doesn't like failure and mistakes, and he doesn't accept them," says a source who has had business dealings with Trump. "You have to justify your existence to be in his realm." The child most in step with Trump is daughter Ivanka, "who, by all accounts, has always been his favorite."

The source in the Trump's circle added: "You can't bite the hand that feeds you, but [Trump Jr.] can't wait for these four years to be over."

Donald Jr. reportedly has mixed feelings about his father's role. GETTY IMAGES

POLITICS

Repealing Obamacare would leave 32M more uninsured

Thirty-two million Americans would lose their health insurance by 2026 if Obamacare is repealed without a replacement, the U.S. Congressional Budget Office reported as President Donald Trump pushed fellow Senate Republicans to reach an agreement on overhauling the country's healthcare law.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell planned to hold a vote for a straight repeal of the Affordable Care Act next week after a bill to repeal and replace collapsed on Monday with the Republican party sharply divided.

According to the CBO, a nonpartisan office that analyzes pending legislation, 17 million Americans would lose health insurance alone in 2018 with a repeal while premiums on individual insurance plans would rise 25 percent next year and double by 2026.

Trump told 49 Republican senators at a White House lunch on Wednesday that he wanted more than a straight repeal.

After taking a hands-off approach to the healthcare debate last week and suggesting on Tuesday that he was fine with letting Obamacare fail, Trump on Wednesday demanded that senators stay in Washington through their planned August recess until they can find common ground on healthcare.

"We're close. We're very close," Trump said at the start of the meeting.

He demanded that lawmakers keep their campaign promises to repeal and replace Obamacare and find a new approach to healthcare.

"We can repeal, but we should repeal and replace, and we shouldn't leave town until this is complete," he said.

After the lunch, McConnell said he will go ahead with a vote early next week to begin debate on a repeal of the ACA.

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Good job, 'Game of Thrones' fans, you stopped watching online porn for an hour

The Season 7 premiere was satisfying, apparently.

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Good job guys, it looks like a few of you managed to peel your eyes away from watching internet porn watching long enough to watch the hour-long "Game of Thrones" season 7 premiere on Sunday.

Give yourselves a pat on the back.

It turns out if there's anything that can distract people from watching porn, it's "Game of Thrones," which makes sense considering many of the episodes contain graphic scenes of sex and violence anyway.

The highly anticipated "Game of Thrones" Season 7 premiere on Sunday caused a 4.5 dip in traffic on Pornhub during the airing from 9 to 10 p.m. That's a considerable change to the number of visitors on the popular porn website, statisticians noted, as Sunday night is typically one of the most popular times for people to watch porn on Pornhub. That's the most ever for a "Game of Thrones" premiere, though the biggest drop ever in Pornhub traffic correlating with "Game of Thrones" happened on June 26, 2016, during the Season 6 finale.

Jon Snow
METRO FILE

Though notable, Pornhub viewers are actually more likely to be distracted by football, basketball and (believe it or not) politics than they are by "Game of Thrones."

Pornhub visitors dropped by a whopping 27 percent on Feb. 5 during Super Bowl Li when comparing traffic to an average Sunday.

Game 5 of the NBA Finals on June 12 was also a major traffic deterrent on Pornhub, which saw traffic dip by 17 to 21 percent during the game time when compared to an average Monday.

Even the James Comey Senate hearing on June 8 caused a bigger drop in traffic to Pornhub in the Washington area when compared to a typical Thursday. The porn site saw a 10 percent drop in visitors at 10 a.m. when the testimony began.

Pornhub saw big spikes in traffic at the conclusion of both the NBA and NFL games. After losing, Cavaliers fans apparently felt the need to make themselves feel better, causing a 28 percent jump in traffic in the Cleveland Area. Nationwide there was a 9 percent jump in porn traffic on Pornhub at the conclusion of Super Bowl Li.

There was no such spike after the "Game of Thrones" premiere, which probably means people were pretty satisfied with the show.

Pornhub plans to track visitors throughout the seven-episode season.

Stay tuned to see what happens this year.

Pornhub data showed a drop in online porn stats. COURTESY OF PORNHUB

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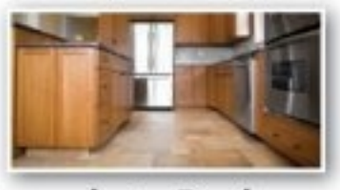

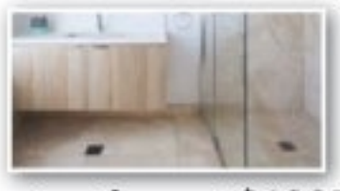

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Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg would tie Trump in election: Poll

A new survey shows the theoretical Democratic candidate in a dead heat.

MICHAEL MARTIN
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New data shows that Mark Zuckerberg is as electable as Trump. GETTY IMAGES

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg would tie Donald Trump in a theoretical presidential election, a new survey shows.

The poll released Tuesday by the Democratic firm Public Policy Polling showed Zuckerberg evenly matched with Trump, with 40 percent support each. Twenty percent were undecided.

But Zuckerberg also trends toward Trump in another way: Underwater favorability ratings. Twenty-nine percent of respondents have an unfavorable view of Zuckerberg, with only 24 percent favorable. Forty-seven percent were unsure. The pollsters noted that Zuckerberg "is actually not a particularly well-known figure nationally."

The poll found Trump to have a 55 percent unfavorable and 41 percent favorable rating.

Zuckerberg was the choice of 69 percent of voters who cast their ballots for Hillary Clinton in 2016, and 9 percent of Trump voters.

The poll came about, apparently, because for the past few months, Zuckerberg has conspicuously looked like a guy who's considering running for president. He's been touring the country, visiting diners and truck stops, having dinner with a typical Ohio family, even punching the clock at a Ford factory.

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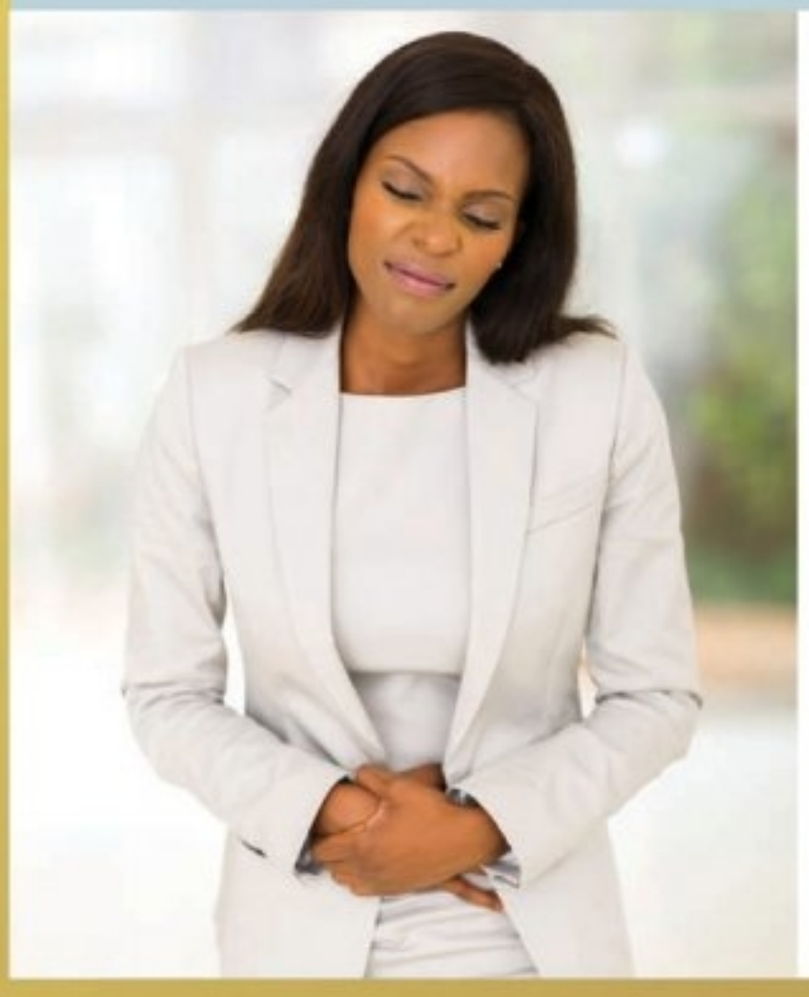

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Which Republican senators opposed the GOP healthcare bill

Here's why Republicans can't just "repeal and replace" Obamacare.

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Senate Republicans' push to repeal and replace Obamacare is dead, for now, thanks to moderates who found replacement legislation too tough and ultra-conservatives who thought the Senate healthcare bill's cuts weren't severe enough.

Republican leaders are now struggling to whip up the votes needed to pass any bill, including their most recent plan that focuses more on repealing than replacing. They would need at least 50 votes, in which case Vice President Mike Pence would cast the tiebreaking vote.

Every Democrat has pledged a "no" vote on the Republican healthcare bill, pointing to deep cuts in Medicaid and a plan to withhold Planned Parenthood funding for a year.

The Republican healthcare bill, known as the Better Care Reconciliation Act, would have allowed states to opt out of essential health benefits required under former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, like preventative care and maternity care.

Frustrated by wavering support on their own side of the aisle, Republicans have proposed a straight repeal of the ACA, but alas, they don't have the votes to do that either.

Meet the key Republicans blocking the GOP effort at healthcare reform:

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine: Collins opposed the measure because of how many people would lose insurance due to deep cuts to Medicaid. When the newest version of the bill was released last week, she tweeted that the Medicaid cuts were still there, and she would still vote "no."

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky: At the opposite end sits Paul, who thinks the Senate healthcare reform bill keeps too much of President Obama's Affordable Care Act in place. On June 27, the senator tweeted, "The bill is currently not repeal and needs major improvement."

Sen. Mike Lee of Utah: Like Paul, Lee

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Sen. Mitch McConnell has found himself at the center of the Republicans' healthcare debacle. GETTY IMAGES

doesn't think the BCRA goes far enough to reform Obamacare policies.

Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas: Moran also issued a statement on Monday withdrawing his support from the bill, saying, "If we leave the federal government in control of everyday healthcare decisions, it is more likely that our healthcare system will devolve into a single-payer system, which would require a massive federal spending increase."

After senators began saying they would not support the BCRA, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell floated the idea of ditching the reform effort altogether and just going for a straight repeal of the ACA – that idea wasn't any more popular.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska: Murkowski said on Twitter the Senate should engage in bipartisan efforts to address current healthcare failures rather than just focus on repealing.

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia: Capito echoed Murkowski and Collins, tweeting that a repeal of current healthcare legislation would only serve to hurt people.

"I did not come to Washington to hurt people," she tweeted.

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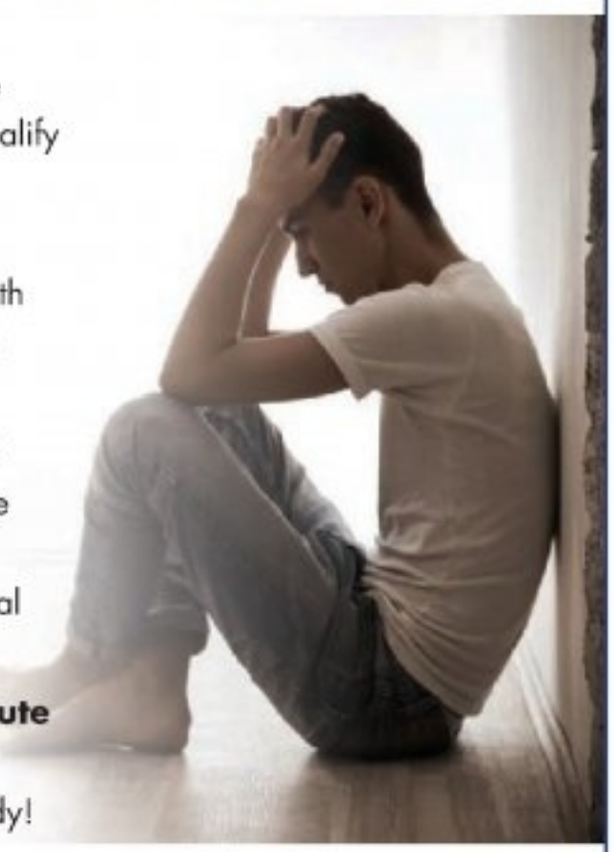

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When Harry Styles met Christopher Nolan

Harry Styles, far left, makes his movie acting debut in Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk," in theaters Friday. WARNER BROS. PICTURES

The filmmaker swears he had no idea who the One Direction star was when he cast him in "Dunkirk."

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With "Dunkirk," Christopher Nolan wants you to feel like you're really there. The filmmaker's latest is a World War II epic, dropping us into the aftermath of the Battle of Dunkirk, in which 400,000 English soldiers were trapped on a beach in the north of France. Home was a short trip across the sea, but they were surrounded by the German army. Their rescue is the stuff of legend.

But Nolan doesn't want you to get bogged down in details. "Dunkirk" isn't a Wikipedia movie. It's no mere history lesson.

"The most important thing for me was to demonstrate what it felt like to the people who were really there," Nolan says. He didn't want there to be too much information or an abundance of war movie cliches. "I wanted to tell an intensely subjective story that gave the public a wider view of what happened, but without the need for barracks, generals and maps."

He also didn't want to use special effects. He wanted every plane, every ship, every location to be real.

"With this film, I realized the true value of the genuine,." Shots with a thousand soldiers lined up on the beach really do feature a thousand actors. "When you see real photos of this, it immediately catches your attention. It's interesting to give something like this to the audience, to show what it was like to be formed there, waiting in the middle of nowhere for days."

The cast of "Dunkirk" is huge, mostly filled with extras. There are big names littered about: Tom Hardy as a hotshot pilot who guns down enemy planes; Kenneth Branagh as an anguished commander trying to get his boys home; Mark Rylance as one of many English civilians who drove their boats across the Channel, ferrying soldiers back home. But many of our leads are unknowns . One of those is Fionn Whitehead, who plays Tommy, a private who's the closest thing this ensemble picture has to a lead.

"We needed young strangers to play those characters," Nolan explains. "I didn't want 31-year-olds doing 19-year-old roles. We wanted people to see guys with no expectations about whether they will survive or not."

And then there's Harry Styles. Nolan was having trouble casting the role of Alex, one of the other key young soldiers. As they searched, The One Directioner sent an audition tape.

GETTY IMAGES

"We told him, 'Well, if you want to come in like any stranger and try this thing you've never done before, you're welcome,'" Nolan recalls. Styles did just that. After what Nolan calls "audition workshops" — in which actors spend several days switching parts, acting alongside each other, forming a group — he felt Styles was "perfect."

It helped that Nolan definitely isn't up with popular music. "Harry who?" he jokes. "When the auditions took place, I did not know who he was. My children knew who he was, but I hadn't seen much of him, because of my age."

"Dunkirk" is an intense experience, even moreso than his three "Batman" movies or "Inception" or "Interstellar." It demands the audience pay attention, not look at their smartphones, keep their brains switched on. But Nolan swears he doesn't have any loftier ambitions than to keep you watching the screen.

"My goal is first and foremost to entertain," Nolan explains. "What cinema can do for the audience is give them an invigorating experience that they could not safely experience in their lives — that will take them to a place where they would never imagine, be it a place of fiction or Dunkirk. My hope is that at the end of the film, the audience will take a break and think, 'OK, that was an experience.'"

Judd Apatow hints at a 'Knocked Up' sequel

The filmmaker talks touring and the 10th anniversary of the hit comedy.

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Judd Apatow performs in Connecticut July 23. PROVIDED

It's hard to believe it's been 10 years since Judd Apatow introduced us to Ben and Alison, the one-night stand turned unlikely parents played by Seth Rogen and Katherine Heigl in the hit comedy "Knocked Up."

Although the sort-of spin-off "This Is 40" offered a glimpse at how Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann's characters are dealing with parenthood these days, fans are still wondering about the future of the series' original couple. Well, the wait may be over soon according to Apatow, as the comedian and filmmaker revealed to us that a sequel could happen in the near future.

Before hitting the northeast leg of his tour and shipping up to Montreal for the Just for Laughs fest, the 49-year-old star opened up about doing another "Knocked Up" movie, returning to stand-up after and more.

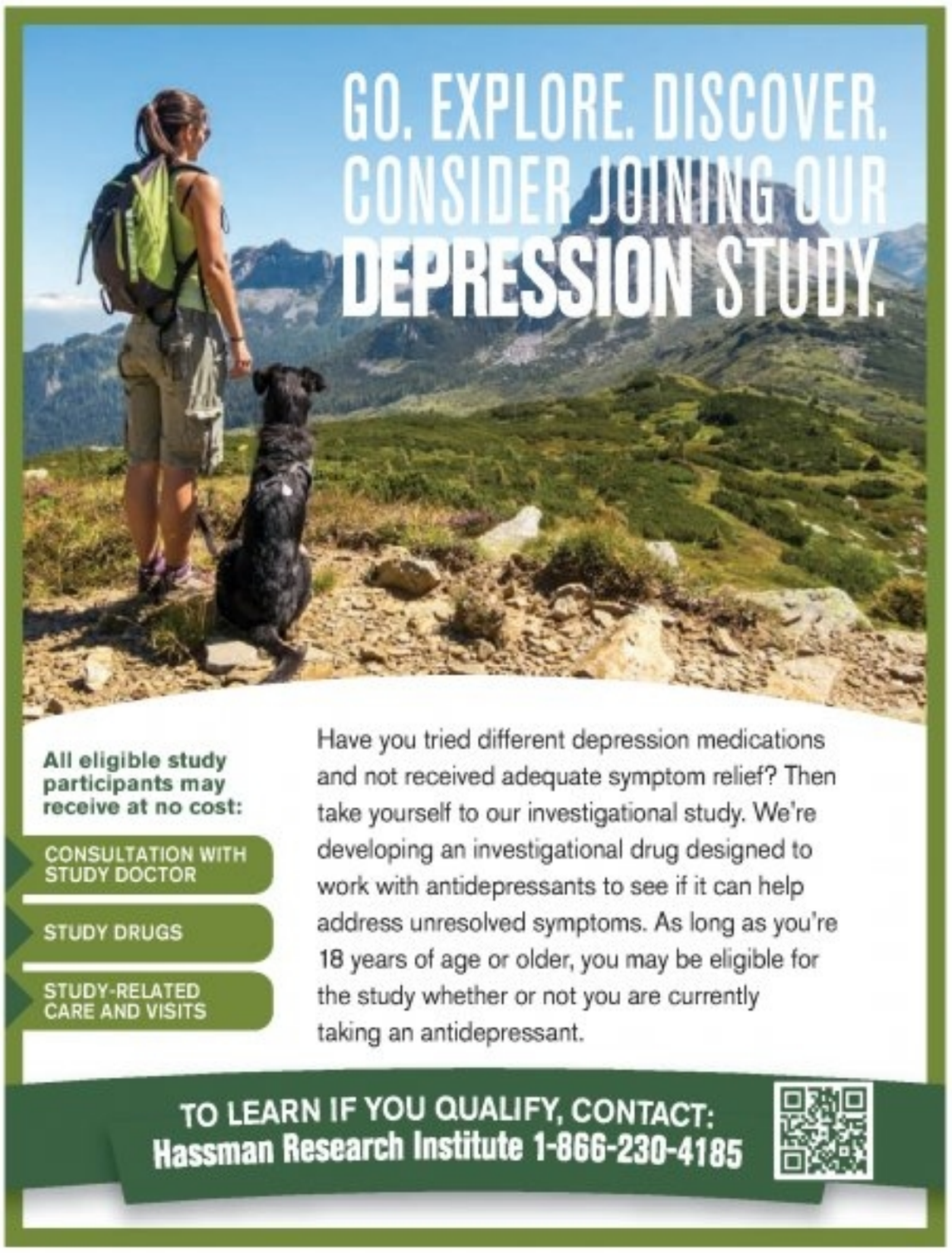
After taking a break from stand-up, is it weird being back on stage?
It's just so fun coming back to stand-up. It was all I ever wanted to do. Everything else has been an offshoot. When I was a kid, I was obsessed with [Jerry] Seinfeld and [Jay] Leno and I loved watching comedians on talk shows. I did stand-up from the time I was 17 until I was 24, then I just got busy doing other things. Now that I'm older and have children and a life, I have much more to say today than when I was a kid.

This year is the 10th anniversary of "Knocked Up" hitting theaters. How are Seth Rogen and Katherine Heigl's characters doing as parents these days?
That's a very good question. I've thought about it a lot. There may be another movie in it one day, so I won't give away any answers. Who knows?

Are you and Heigl cool now after her initial, negative response to the film?
Yeah.

Do you think you could write a movie as comedic or tragic as what's going on with Donald Trump's White House?
It's giving everyone a lot of anxiety. Everyday there's some new, strange detail. I don't think most people think we're in very safe hands. It is satirical, but it's real and it's concerning. You don't want the leaders of your country to be comfortable lying. You don't want them to do all sorts of meetings and accidentally leave the names of the people they meet with off all of their forms. For Republicans and Democrats, it makes them nervous because you don't know what's going on, you don't know what interests they're serving. Yes, 20 years from now it will be very comical and someone will make a hilarious miniseries out of it. Right now, it's troubling.

Does all the Trump talk bleed into your stand-up work at all?
I talk about politics a little bit because I don't know how you avoid it. There's too much going on and we're thinking about it all day. It's hard not to dip into a little bit of what's happening.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In its second season, 'Insecure' finds its groove

And it's funnier and fresher than ever.

GLEANA ALBRITTON
@MsGlea
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"Insecure" — which premieres Sunday, July 23 — finally gets into a refreshing groove in its sophomore season, and the first thing you'll notice is that it's funnier than ever. But not to worry: You'll still be able to cringe right along with your faves.

In the first few episodes, for example, Issa (Issa Rae) hilariously suffers through a string of sad dates, rejections and desperate hookups leading to what has to be the most awkward and uncomfortable-looking sex ever shown on TV. Lawrence (Jay Ellis) revels in his newfound singlehood, cementing his status as a f—kboi. And Molly (Yvonne Orji) questions the perfection she's been striving for all along.

Overall, the second season manages to thoughtfully cover new territory, highlighting how we often strive toward goals in life that aren't the best choices for us. And your faves finally discover that all that glitters isn't gold.

Read more at
metro.us

Issa (Issa Rae) and Molly (Yvonne Orji) shine brighter this season, too.
JUSTINA MINTZ/HBO

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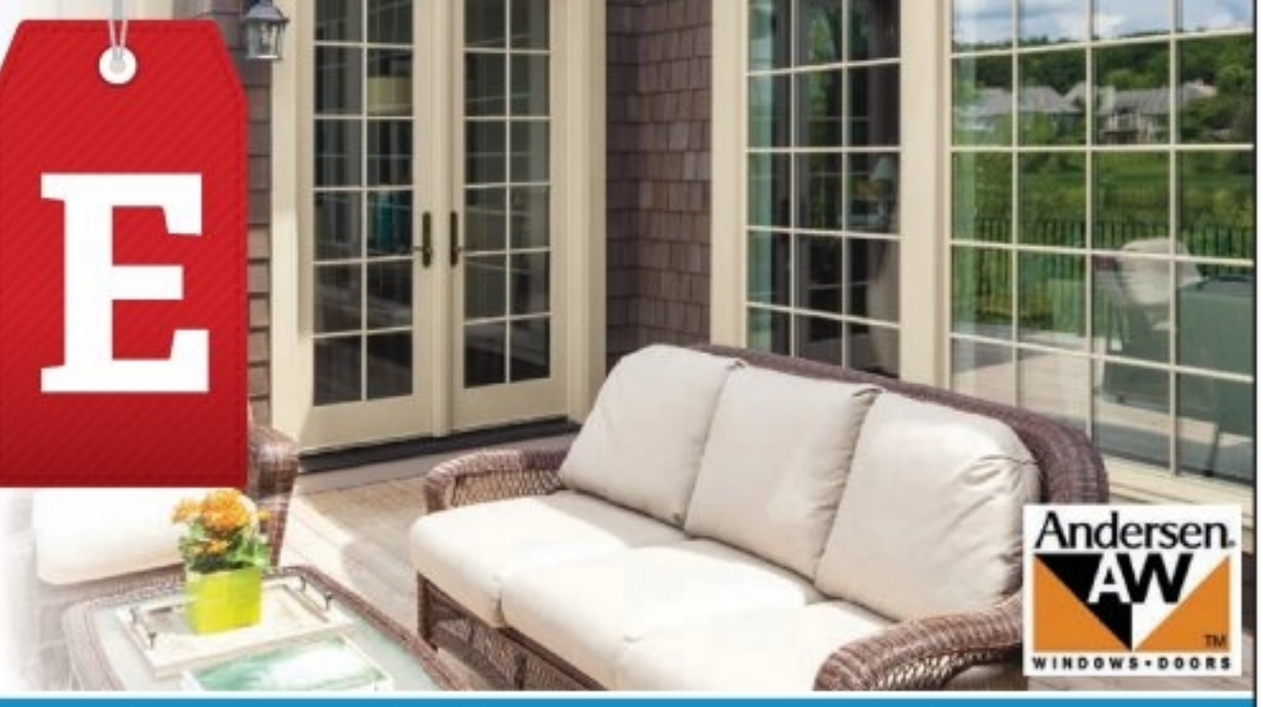

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Relative newcomer Fionn Whitehead is the closest thing Christopher Nolan's World War II movie has to a protagonist. MELINDA SUE GORDON

"Dunkirk"

Director: Christopher Nolan
Stars: Fionn Whitehead, Mark Rylance
Rating: PG-13

●●●●○

"Dunkirk" is the war movie as sensory overload. (And you should definitely see it in IMAX 70mm, if you can.) It's the opposite of a Wikipedia movie; in fact, a pre-film Wikipedia visit would help you get your bearings. But Christopher Nolan doesn't want you to get your bearings. The director wants you to be as lost, confused, freaked out as the soldiers onscreen. Big Hollywood's brainiest filmmaker wants you to turn off your brain and surrender to the chaos.

Nolan doesn't even give you much background — just a few lines of introductory text before throwing you into the thick of it. It's a genuinely original war movie, starting with its subject, which isn't even a battle; it's the aftermath — a hastily-assembled rescue mission to transport some 400,000 English soldiers from the north of France across the sea to home.

As usual, Nolan mixes up the chronology. "Dunkirk" is divided into three sections: land, sea and air. Thing is, each one takes place over a different length of time: respectively, a week, a day and an hour. Nolan mixes them up, each one dancing with the others. And they really are dancing. Nolan structures "Dunkirk" like a symphony, with different movements that start to collide and speak to each other as the movie goes on.

But don't overthink it, because Nolan certainly didn't. There's a little bit of crossover between the three threads. We see one soldier (Cillian Murphy) rescued by Mark Rylance's civilian boater — one of many Englishfolk who sailed across the Channel, straight into war, to bring their boys home — from a sunken boat; 15 minutes later we see him and fellow soldiers lighting from the French shore en route to disaster.

But the director's usual Swiss Watch precision is thin on the ground. Here, Nolan prefers to stay loose. That might seem like carelessness — a gimmick that's gone underused. But Nolan doesn't want you to see how clever he is. He wants you to focus at all times on the moment at hand, which is always dominated by confusion and terror. MATT PRIGGE

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"Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets"

Director: Luc Besson
Stars: Dane DeHaan, Cara Delevingne
Rating: PG-13

●●●○○

In 1997, the summer movie season was considerably weirded up by a pricey sci-fi extravaganza called "The Fifth Element." It had American stars, including Bruce Willis, but it was, in fact, French — the bizarre brainchild of Luc Besson ("La Femme Nikita"), casually dropped into American multiplexes. And it was strange. It had a president played by a wrestler, a baddie (Gary Oldman) who sweated chocolate and a tentacled blue space diva crooning a hip-hop aria while Willis cried.

Jump 20 years, and it's happening again. "Valerian" isn't quite as out there as "The Fifth Element"; its messier, longer, forgettable. But it's an antidote to the same-ness of our summer franchise hellscape — a Eurotrash spectacle that comes from one man's strange head, not from a greedy corporation.

Based on an old French comic, Besson's latest is set in a deep future in which humanity improbably got its stuff together and formed some galactic federation with far-flung beings. Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne play our hot-shot agent heroes — a bickering will-they-or-won't-they pair who must save the titular metropolis: a space hub for the universe's best species.

At its best, "Valerian" has the dense, madcap rush of a comedic cartoon sci-fi — think "Futurama" or "Rick and Morty," though not as funny or as inventive as either. (And, coming from the guy who made the moronic yet dazzling "Lucy," it's more or less the opposite of smart.) The snaky, digressive plot is purely foundational, there to prop up as many alien beasties and bizarro tech and Besson insanities as it can without breaking.

Insanity is where Besson shines, anyway. "Valerian" boasts sights you won't want to un-see. Cara Delevingne puts her head inside a jellyfish's butt so she can spy on Dane DeHaan's memories. A cute reptile creature thing poops a flurry of pearls and diamond earrings. Rihanna shape-shifts into Herbie Hancock. The casting often plays like Mad Libs, which would explain why a game Ethan Hawke swings by as a blinged-out cowboy pimp. Whatever its faults, it's a summer blockbuster in 2017 that's colorful instead of drab, isn't aimed specifically at Americans and is kind enough to give us "Space Oddity" in Dolby Surround, and ought to be welcomed as a liberator. MP

Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne can't believe they're in the weirdo French sci-fi epic "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets." VIKRAM GOUNASSEGARIN

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"Coriolanus" will be performed by an all-female cast from July 26 to July 30. KYLE CASSIDY

Hubris. Deception. Vengefulness. Bloodlust. These are the things that make William Shakespeare's testosterone-driven "Coriolanus" so utterly musky. "Let me have war, say I; it exceeds peace as far as day does night; it's spritely, waking, audible, and full of vent. Peace is a very apoplexy, lethargy: mulled, deaf, sleepy, insensible; a getter of more bastard children than war's a destroyer of men."

With all that brawn and manliness, why not perform it with an all-female cast? That's what the Shakespeare in Clark Park (SCP) troupe, its Artistic Director Kittson O'Neill and its Coriolanus,\ Barrymore Award winner Charlotte Northeast, are doing from July 26 to July 30 in Clark Park in West Philadelphia.

"It is a traditionally very male story and because of that, I have wanted to explore this play with female bodies for years," says O'Neill on her fourth season running SCP. "Reading it, I have always seen a fascinating, modern drama with no clear heroes on any side. But I think the complexities of the play get lost in the tired tropes of a masculine, military culture and boring Freudian Oedipal silliness."

With non-male actors playing Coriolanus' fiery warriors and key, ranting political figures, O'Neill believes that you can focus on Shakespeare's luxurious words and warring action more closely, because you can't predict what they'll do.

"I think it jolts us into questioning a lot of our assumptions about how society is built and what we just accept because it's men doing it," says O'Neill. "I've asked this cast to embrace building a society devoid of the male gaze, to really fully imagine how they would move through the world if nobody ever judged them on their appearance but only on their actions, if they were always looked to first for answers or ideas. That requires a fearless, confident tribe of badass humans and we totally have that."

One of those "badass humans" is Charlotte Northeast, who'll portray the rough-and-ready chieftain Coriolanus with an iron fist in a velvet glove. "I embrace this role wholeheartedly, as I've always been what would quaintly be referred to as a 'tomboy,'" says Northeast, who has worked with director O'Neill in the past on projects such as "Behind the Eye" with Gas & Electric Arts and "Arcadia" at the Lantern.

"I've always expressed myself in a way that doesn't strictly conform to what is thought of as "female." It isn't a choice and it isn't on purpose — it's simply how I do things. And I think it lends itself well to playing a character such as Coriolanus in a female version of what is typically a male world."

With that, Northeast states that what drives her battle-happy character is not so very different than what modern women must contend with: competition, being second-guessed, having to stand up for yourself and sometimes, being very brutal.

"The themes of ambition, loyalty, nobility and power remain the same and are universal amongst the sexes. I think if we were to rewrite the play to be entirely from a woman's perspective, some of the war may come out but the overarching themes would remain the same. It's been very freeing to cut into the warlike state of mind and to express that as fierce women."

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While public pools are a great option, purchasing pool passes to one of the area's private pools is worth it if you're looking for something a little fancier.

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Sundays at 2:00pm Admission is Free!
For updates and more information call
215.686.5372 | freelibrary.org

you'd want in a weekend getaway to the beach, minus the shore traffic. Located at the Valley Forge Casino Resort, there's sand, live entertainment, tiki bars, a taco truck and, of course, the pool. Seriously, what more could you want? You can purchase a $20 guest pass for the day — no membership required.
1160 First Ave. King of Prussia, PA
vfcasino.com

Monarch Philly

Monarch Philly is Philadelphia's only 21+ swim club. And what's more, the pool is filled with salt water, so it's a little better for your hair! Enjoy private cabanas, bungalows, live music, cocktails and more, all with killer views of the Philadelphia skyline from Northern Liberties. Presale day passes are listed on the website at $10 but subject to availability. Seasonal memberships are also available.
1031 Germantown Ave.
monarchphilly.com

The Rittenhouse Spa & Club

Looking for a place to swim indoors? Check out the pool at the luxurious Rittenhouse Spa & Club in the Rittenhouse Hotel. You can get your laps in even in the winter, and with a day pass, there's a gym you can have access to as well. Sign up for one of their relaxing spa services (hot stone massage anyone?) and really get zen.
210 W Rittenhouse Sq.
therittenhousespaclub.com

Luke's Lobster is on a roll, literally. PROVIDED

Luke's Lobster opens at Market East this Friday

Hungry for more lobster? Get ready to rejoice, because Luke's Lobster is debuting its second Philly location this Friday, July 21 at 17 S. 11th St.

Founded by Luke Holden and Ben Conniff in New York City's East Village in 2009, this cozy seafood shack is literally on a roll and has expanded across the United States and around the world, featuring a menu that includes clam chowder, salads, crab rolls and of course, lobster rolls.

According to Ben Conniff, who also serves as the president of Luke's Lobster, the secret to a great lobster roll lies in quality ingredients.

"The biggest mistake people make is using mediocre lobster meat and then covering it up with mayo, celery, onions and chives," he says. "You need to focus on absolute perfection when you buy and cook your lobster. Then don't cover that beautiful meat with anything other than a very light touch of mayo, lemon butter and a tiny bit of seasoning."

On opening the second location in Philadelphia, Conniff admits he is pretty excited.

"We have loved having our Rittenhouse location for the last four years and are so happy with our team and our guests down there," he says. "We've been looking for the right next location for a long time, and we've finally found one that feels perfect for us. We can't wait."

For more information, visit: lukeslobster.com

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FESTIVALS

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Hoodstock

Designed to unite all walks of life, Hoodstock features about 30 vendors, 15 local visual artists and 12 live performances. Hosted at Life Do Grow Farm, an urban farm and community space, the fest carves its space into sections for art, culture and social justice. Also on the lineup: "Juice," a day party for queer women of color.
July 22, 1 p.m.
Life Do Grow Farm
2315 N. 11th St.
phillyurbancreators.org, Free

PECO Islamic Heritage Festival

First kicking off with a parade at Fifth and Market streets at noon, the Penn's Landing festival consists of community organizations, drill teams, fashion shows, spoken-word performances, exhibits, a bazaar and, of course, plenty of space for prayer rugs.
July 21, 2 p.m.
Festival Pier at Penn's Landing
601 N. Christopher Columbus Boulevard
festivaLicpic.co, Free

MUSIC

Broomall String Band

Around since the 1930s and a mainstay of the annual Mummers Parade, the whimsical string band takes to the stage at the Mummers Museum for a free mid-summer performance.
July 20, 8 p.m.
Mummers Museum
1100 S. Second St.
mummersmuseum.com, Free

Friday Night Dance Night

Dance shoes and flappers at the ready for this evening dance party, led by the jazzy sounds of Drew Nugent and the Midnight Society. It's about as close to Gilded Age Gatsby as the Headhouse District will get all summer.
July 21, 6 p.m.
Historic Headhouse Shambles
Second and Lombard streets, Free

311

Pronounced "three-eleven," this four-piece Nebraska rock band takes the stage at Penn's Landing in support of their 2017 album Mosaic. Around since 1988, you'll also catch some greatest hits from their 11 preceding albums.
July 21, 7 p.m.
Festival Pier at Penn's Landing
601 N. Christopher Columbus Boulevard
311.com, $35

Curse the Sun

This far-out trio, with album names like Klonopain and Psycache, unleashes their riff- and bass-heavy wall of sound to Kung Fu Necktie.
July 21, 7 p.m.
Kung Fu Necktie
1250 N. Front St.
flashmobpro.ticketfly.com, $8

BOOKS

Ethics in the Pursuit of Profits

Brian Berkey, a moral and political philosophy professor at the Wharton School of Business, delivers a speech on the ethics of corporate behavior in a capitalist society – particularly in one facing the effects of climate change.
July 20, 7 p.m.
Free Library of Philadelphia – Central Branch
1901 Vine St.
freelibrary.org, Free

FOOD

PROVIDED

University City Dining Days

Returning for its 13th year, new additions like Dim Sum House – complemented by area classics like Sabrina's Café and City Tap House – keep the lineup fresh. As always, most meals are prix fixe with three courses.
Through July 23, Various locations, $15-$35

MUSEUMS

Access to Science: Opening Doors to Autism

See the Backyard Adventures and Outside In exhibits, plus dioramas and dinosaurs in a quiet setting before the museum opens. Children on all ends of the autism spectrum are invited; just make sure you call to schedule your visit in advance.
July 22, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University
1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
ansp.org
Free with price of admission

ArtBreak

The curators of the African American Museum in Philadelphia organize a conversational lunchtime tour for those who want to bring their lunch along and experience a more educational mid-day break.
July 20, 12:30 p.m.
African American Museum in Philadelphia, 701 Arch St.
aampmuseum.org, Free

Connective Tissue Exhibit Opening Night

Lisa Nilsson debuts her collection of quilled-paper constructions that delve into the complexities of the human body. Show up early with your sketchbook for an open drawing session. Event access is limited to the art gallery.
July 20, 6 p.m.
Mutter Museum, 19 S. 22nd St.
muttermuseum.org, $10

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Great American UFO road trip

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Fodor's Travel

Americans have a long, noble tradition of staring up at the night sky, seeing a strange convergence of light, and believing (hoping?) that they've witnessed something from beyond our world.

Whether you're a Mulder or the much-put-upon Scully to someone else's Mulder, these extraterrestrial-friendly destinations will make your road trip searching for the truth one to remember.

Sedona, Arizona

Maybe it's the presence of the mysterious "vortexes" or the high altitude, but there's something about Sedona that has rendered it a hotbed of UFO activity. And if you're a bit of a novice, there are a handful of tours that'll show you the ropes of identifying bona fide UFOs.

The desert town is home to nightly UFO tours. Hosted by experts, these tours take visitors out into the exceptionally clear Sedona nights armed with military-grade night vision goggles to scan the night skies for signs of extraterrestrial activity. When on the tours, novices are taught how to distinguish between stars, aircraft, satellites and (naturally) UFOs. Because knowing what you're not looking for is as important as knowing what you are looking for.

Roswell Crash Site

Is it really a Great American UFO Road Trip without a stop at Roswell? The New Mexico city is, of course, famous for being the site of an alleged alien spacecraft crash. And while certain party poopers (aka the U.S. government) have insisted that the 1947 incident was merely a nuclear test surveillance balloon gone awry, the Roswell crash has remained a point of fascination for UFO believers and conspiracy theorists for over half a century.

Even if you don't see UFOs, the trip to Sedona, Arizona, is worth it. GETTY IMAGES

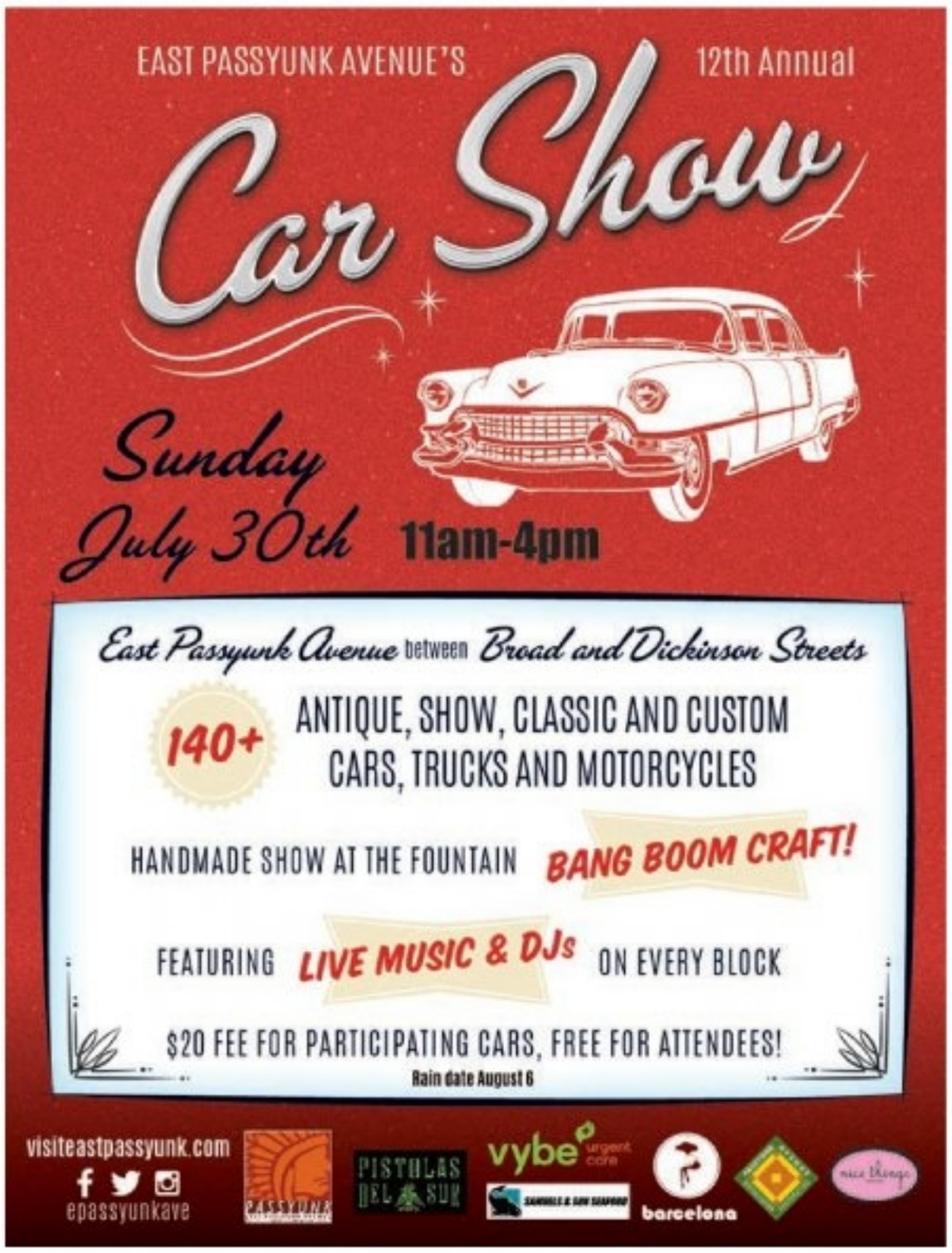
Joshua Tree

California was recently bestowed with the auspicious honor of being named the top state for UFO sightings. But of all the Golden State's UFO-friendly spots, it's Joshua Tree National Park that allows enthusiasts to hit two birds with one stone.

Take a sound bath in the Integratron, near Joshua Tree. CHRISTOPHER MICHEL, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Joshua Tree has been a hub of UFOs and the people who seek them out for decades. You can visit the appropriately named Giant Rock that's served as a gathering site for enthusiasts since the 1950s. Take a "sound bath" in the Integatron, whose creator claims to have been contacted by Venusians with instructions to build a time-travel dome. And of course, there's always striking out into the night in search of unexplainable lights zipping across the sky.

If you do happen to have a close encounter, be sure to check out Contact in the Desert. Held May 19-22, is the largest of UFO convention in the U.S., attracting thousands of UFO rookies and experts alike. Attendees can spend the weekend attending lectures on secret excavations in Antarctica, workshops on how to prepare for contact, or even doing a little yoga. (It's still Southern California, after all.)



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No pressure, but it's all on Embiid

Things are finally looking up for the 76ers, but it doesn't mean a thing if Joel Embiid can't stay healthy.

ANDY JASNER
@AndyJasner
sports@metro.us

The 76ers are on the verge of taking a major step forward.

And it's about time.

After four tankable seasons, which added up to 75 total victories, the 2017-18 season promises to be exciting. It may not even result in a playoff berth, but at least the Sixers are trending upward.

They feature one of the youngest teams in the league with a growing nucleus that includes Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons, Markelle Fultz, Dario Saric, J.J. Redick and Robert Covington, among others.

There is one crucial fact in the midst of this rebuild: Embiid must stay healthy.

Now entering his fourth season, the 7-foot-2, ultra-talented center from Kansas played only 31 memorable games last season.

But Embiid was stopped from participating in back-to-back games, and always had a 24-to-28 minute restriction. Imagine if he had played 35-to-40 minutes in some of those games. Imagine if he played on consecutive nights.

Under the Sam Hinkie regime, the Sixers were extremely lucky to have Embiid fall to them at No. 3 overall in the 2014 draft. Had he been completely healthy, he would have gone No. 1, no question.

Embiid's contract will be an issue soon and the Sixers must decide if they want to commit $125 million or more to a player who has played 31 total games in three seasons.

Joel Embiid will have to stay healthy if the Sixers want to see the playoffs in 2018. GETTY IMAGES

Plain and simple, Embiid must prove he can be durable and play at least 60-65 games this season. He's the centerpiece, the cornerstone of this franchise. That fact can't be argued or ignored.

Embiid's tweeting and Instagram posts are fun for the passionate Sixers fan base, but they mean absolutely nothing. If the Sixers win and work their way into the playoffs, the social media posts are embraced. If the Sixers lose and fall out of the postseason again, then they're a distraction.

Allen Iverson cupped his ears and played to the crowd at home. But "The Answer" led by example on the court and carried the Sixers to the NBA Finals in 2001.

Embiid looks as if he'll possess all the same leadership qualities on the court. Yet he must be on the court and not cheering from the bench in a suit.

Simmons and Fultz have never played in an NBA game. Embiid donned a Sixers uniform for 31 games in one season. Most of the roster is a young, growing group.

The whole key is Embiid.

Down the road — if the Sixers are to reach their ultimate goal of an NBA championship — the man in the middle has to lead the way. It's their only road to a title.

Embiid looks great on individual highlights posted on social media.

Let's see what happens when the games count for real once again. That will be the true litmus test.

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Philly Union prepping for tough stretch with Gold Cup underway

With a postseason berth possible, the Union will have to hang tough while some of their best players compete in the Gold Cup.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
sports@metro.us

Over the last two months, the Philadelphia Union (6-7-5) have found a way to hold their ground in a tough Eastern Conference, which boasts the MLS' top three teams (Chicago, Toronto FC, NYC FC). They currently sit just five points out of the sixth and final playoff spot in the East with 16 matches left in the season.

In the franchise's history, this is usually when seasons seem to slip away.

Even last season, where they notched their first playoff berth since 2011, the team backed into the playoffs by going winless in their final seven matches.

Philly Union goalkeeper Andre Blake has been absent from the squad because he is competing with the Jamaican national team in the Gold Cup. GETTY IMAGES

It's crucial that the Union stay consistent and healthy as they play four matches in the next 10 days and cannot afford to fall in the standings. They'll face favorable matchups against the Montreal Impact (5-6-6) on the road, the Columbus Crew (9-10-1) in a home/away series and the New England Revolution (5-9-5) on the road before returning home on August 5.

"You want to get every point possible," coach Jim Curtin said. "On paper, these games are very important because of where Montreal and Columbus sit in the standings. We have three games in a week's time where you can either see some real separation between one of us if you can grab all three or you can see where nothing happens, which would help none of us. We have to be aggressive in trying to get points on the road now because we started slow and the strength of schedule here will be difficult for us."

One of the factors that is out of the Union's control in the next week is the 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup. The Union could be without starting goalie Andre Blake (Jamaica) and forward Chris Pontius (USA), who will be in uniform for their national teams until possibly July 26, depending on how the results pan out. Blake would especially be a loss in these games, as he currently ranks second in the MLS in shutouts with seven on the year.

"The combination of the Gold Cup and of the schedule, it's a challenge," Curtin said. "The national team has a job to do, but we're stronger when Andre and Chris are here to choose from. We're a little shorthanded. Fabian Herbers also had a sports hernia surgery so we lose him. … We're a little thin in some spots but it's an opportunity for guys to step up."

The Union is currently riding a three-match unbeaten streak where they've gone 2-0-1. It has not fared well on the road, however. They've won just one road game on the season and are just 1-4-3 on the year.

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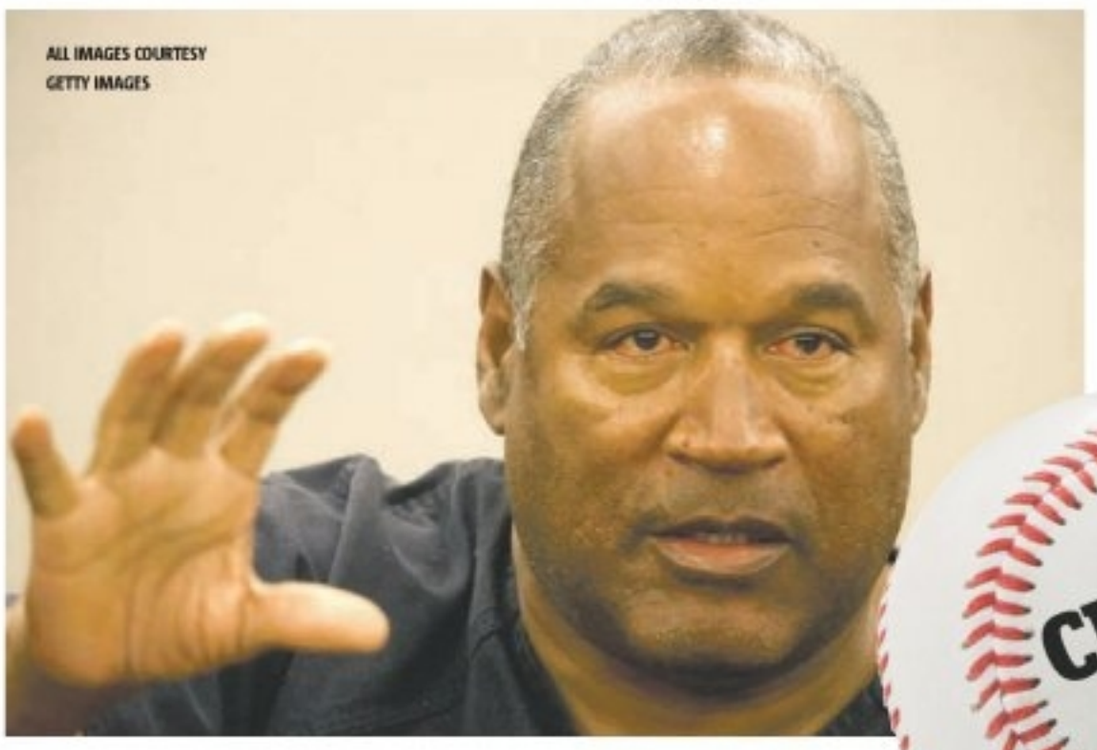

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OH NO. NOT OJ

Last year, O.J. Simpson murder trial nostalgia (as sickening as that is to say) reached a high point in America. There was that unintentionally funny FX O.J. show with an exceptionally strange John Travolta and Ross from "Friends," and ESPN had that 73-part "30 for 30" on O.J. and race relations.

Believe it or not, O.J. could be playing golf in Southern California again - in real life - by Thanksgiving. His parole hearing is on Thursday.

Of course, Vegas has betting lines open on whether or not O.J. will be paroled or not. The current odds actually favor O.J., as he is -300 to be released in October.

NSF-2017

Boxing has always used race to sell fights, so it's no surprise that Conor McGregor "went there." McGregor said, "Dance for me, boy" to Mayweather during one of the over-the-top pressers and also referred to "Rocky III" as the movie with "dancing monkeys in the gym." Mayweather had some vile NSF-2017 jabs of his own for McGregor, calling McGregor the gay slur of "f—."

Ahhh, Trump's America.

Mayweather remains a heavy favorite to win the fight. It won't help McGregor's cause that there are rumors currently floating around that he was recently KO'd in a sparring session with some nobody.

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Sale subject to postponement and/or cancellation. Barry S. Slosberg Auctioneers, # AU-1487-L.

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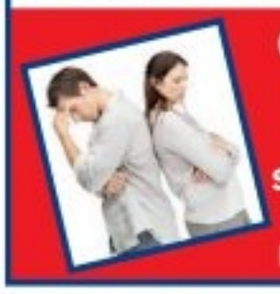

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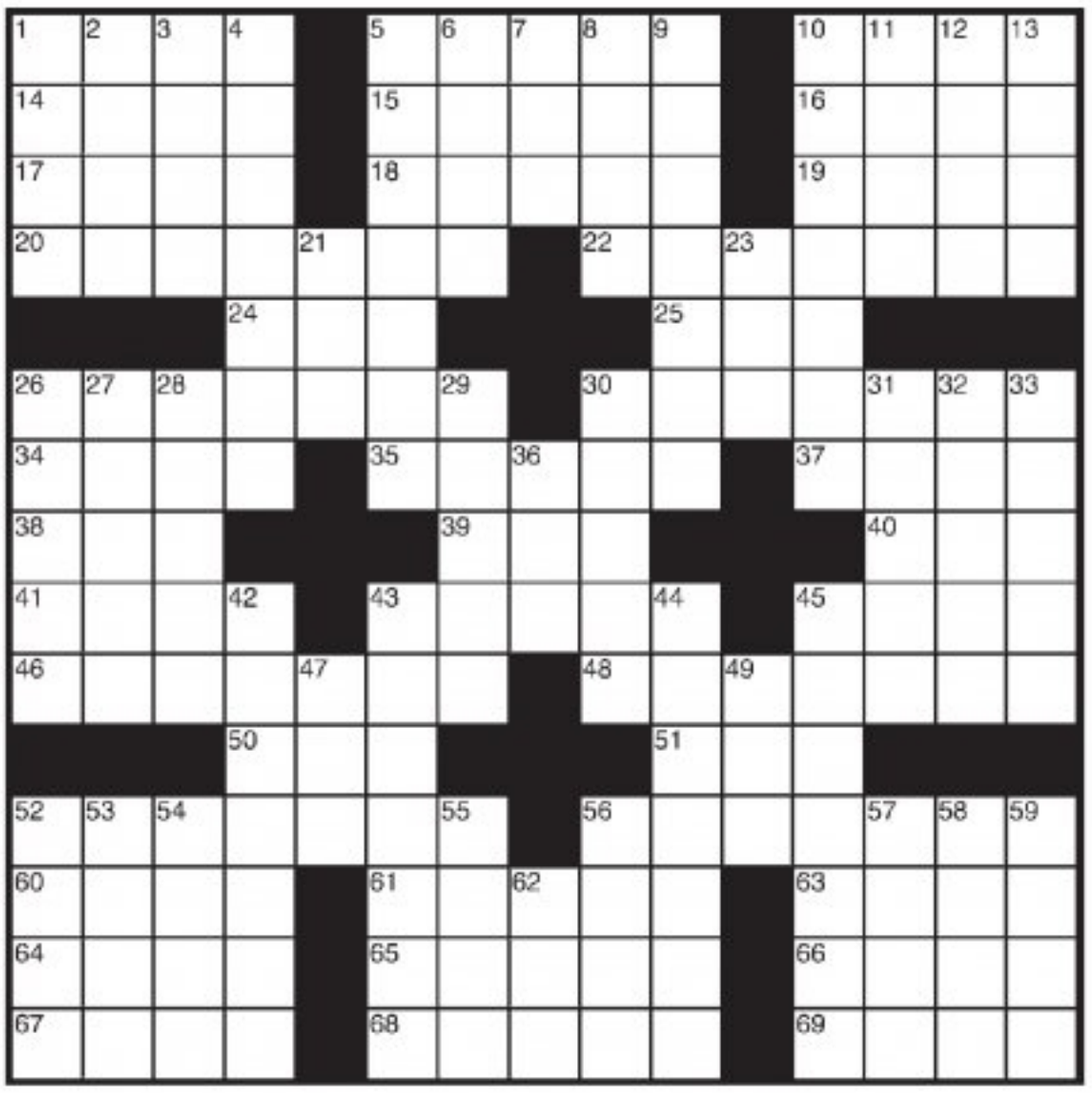

Across
1 Pillow cover
5 Dingbat
10 Bivouac
14 Restaurant handout
15 "See you later!"
16 Dairy-case buy
17 Coffee servers
18 Rise up
19 James – Jones
20 Food sellers
22 Strip of
24 Hawaii's Mauna –
25 Varnish ingredient
26 Vouches for
30 Eventually
34 Twosomes
35 Looking at
37 Small coin
38 Elev.
39 Hwy.
40 Library abbr.
41 Courtroom response
43 Waits awhile
45 Reiner or Sagan
46 Japanese dish
48 Canyons
50 Great Lakes cargo
51 Crooner – Damone
52 Took turns
56 Was in charge of
60 Gray wolf
61 Remove errors
63 Non-flying bird
64 Enthralled
65 Please greatly
66 Help a hoodlum
67 Big pet
68 Goes on horseback
69 Trig ratio

Down
1 Complacent
2 Man of the haus
3 Cato's year
4 Pecs and abs
5 Give a running commentary
6 Time to beware
7 Ballpoint point
8 Scholarship basis
9 Holiday tradition (2 wds.)
10 Used intimidation
11 Kirghiz range (var.)
12 Griffin of game shows
13 Tent support
21 Aurora, to Socrates
23 Tillis or Dawber
26 Revise appropriately
27 Gauzy fabric
28 Tribal symbol
29 Turkey neighbor
30 Scoff at
31 Sofa
32 Luigi's romance
33 Shouts
36 – be an honor
42 Excuse
43 Puppy seller
44 Barbarians
45 Shrill insects
47 Website
49 Coq au –
52 Give a high-five
53 Walt Kelly strip
54 Poet's black
55 Lox purveyor
56 Sound-off button
57 Mongolian desert
58 Churchill successor
59 Be too fond
62 Spoiled

metro.us/sudoku

easy

						1		
		7			8	3	4	
4	2						5	9
	9	4		7		2		
	7		1		2		8	
		5		6		9	1	
5	1						9	4
	6	3	5			7		
		8						

hard

5								
		9	3	4				
8			7		5			3
	2			8	6		7	1
		4	2		1	8		
6	8		9	3			2	
1			8		9			2
				2	4	7		
								5

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Reconnect with someone from your past to gain a different perspective on how others perceive you. What you learn will be to your advantage. Romance is featured.

Taurus Pour your emotions, talent and discipline into doing your best job. Let your experience help you finish what you start without interference. Say little and do a lot.

Gemini Emotions will be running high. Before you let your enthusiasm spin out of control, make sure you are being honest in your assessment of what's actually happening.

Cancer Physical, emotional and domestic changes can be made, as long as you stick to a strict budget and are detailed and precise in your assessment and plans.

Leo If you reconnect with someone you have worked with in the past, new opportunities will develop. The willingness to put in extra effort will lead to a solid partnership.

Virgo Keep your opinions to yourself. Don't give anyone access to your passwords or personal information. Take care of your emotional and physical health.

Libra Taking a trip, attending a conference or trade show or just spending time with someone you can learn something from or enjoy being with will make your day.

Scorpio Don't feel that you must jump into something because someone else does. Do your own thing and don't feel the need to explain your decision to anyone.

Sagittarius Travel, communication and positive changes to your life are favored. Execute your plans with finesse. Put time aside for a little family fun or a romantic evening.

Capricorn Don't take on more than you can handle. There will be a difference between what you can do and what someone wants you to do. Make your position clear.

Aquarius Socialize, plan an event or get involved in a joint venture you find intriguing. Speak up and share your ideas if you want good things to happen.

Pisces Your charm will attract attention. Don't lead anyone on or get involved with someone you know little about. Ask questions. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers

S	C	A	R	■	Z	I	L	C	H	■	V	A	M	P
L	A	D	E	■	I	D	A	H	O	■	A	R	E	A
U	T	A	H	■	P	E	N	I	T	E	N	T	L	Y
R	O	M	E	O	■	A	C	T	■	G	I	S	T	S
■	■	■	A	B	A	T	E	■	H	R	S	■	■	■
T	O	W	R	O	P	E	■	B	E	E	H	I	V	E
E	R	A	S	E	R	■	T	A	R	T	■	D	E	N
M	D	S	E	■	O	H	A	R	E	■	G	I	R	D
P	E	T	■	U	P	O	N	■	T	H	R	O	N	E
T	R	E	A	S	O	N	■	L	I	M	I	T	E	D
■	■	■	L	E	S	■	R	E	C	O	N	■	■	■
U	N	D	E	R	■	A	H	A	■	S	N	O	R	E
C	O	A	R	S	E	N	I	N	G	■	I	B	E	X
L	E	N	T	■	R	E	N	E	E	■	N	E	A	P
A	S	K	S	■	S	W	E	D	E	■	G	Y	R	O

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